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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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MAJOR GENERAL HARRY G. ARMSTRONG, USAF

CMS 69

6 JUL 1988

Harry G. Armstrong was born in DeSmet, South Dakota, February 17, 1899. After attending the University of Minnesota, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, with which he served from October, 1918, to March, 1919. He then entered the University of South Dakota, from which he was graduated in 1921, and four years later received his Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of Louisville.

In April, 1929, General Armstrong was appointed a first lieutenant in the Medical Reserve and in September, 1929, was assigned as a student at the School of Aviation Medicine at Brooks Field, Texas. He completed the course in February, 1930, received his Regular Army commission as a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps, and was assigned to Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

From September to December, 1930, General Armstrong studied at the Army Medical School, Army Medical Center, Washington, D. C., after which he transferred to the Medical Field Service School at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

General Armstrong was attached to the Air Corps in April, 1931, and assigned as assistant surgeon of the First Pursuit Group at Selfridge Field, Michigan. Four years later he went to Wright Field, Ohio, to establish the Aero-Medical Laboratory and served there as chief of the laboratory until July, 1940. That same year he received his Master of Science degree in medicine from the University of Cincinnati and a year later obtained his Master of Arts degree from the University of Toronto.

In 1941 General Armstrong was military attache at the American Embassy in London until he returned to the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, Texas, to establish a research laboratory, later redesignated the Research Section of the school. He returned to England in the summer of 1942, as assistant surgeon of the Eighth Air Force, stationed outside of London. He was appointed surgeon of the Eighth Air Force in January, 1944, and 15 months later became surgeon of the Air Division in the office of Military Government for Germany, (U.S.) with headquarters at Berlin.

In January, 1946, General Armstrong was named assistant commandant of the School of Aviation Medicine at Randolph Field, and became commandant of the school in July, 1946.

General Armstrong in June, 1949, was appointed Deputy, The

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Surgeon General of the U.S. Air Force. The following December he was named Surgeon General of the Air Force.

General Armstrong is a fellow of the American Medical Association, the Aero-Medical Association, the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, the American College of Physicians, and the Royal Medical Society of London, England.

He is rated a flight surgeon and has been awarded the Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Order of the British Empire, and the French and Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palms.

In 1937, General Armstrong won the Wellcome Award, presented annually for the best medical military essay. In 1939, he received the Collier Award, presented each year for the greatest achievement in aviation, and in 1941, was presented the John Jeffries Award given for the greatest achievement in aviation medicine during the preceding year. The latter two awards were presented for General Armstrong's contribution to the general overall safety of aviation and the protection of pilots in flight.

#### PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to captain (permanent) December 15, 1932; to major (permanent) July 15, 1938; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) February 1, 1942; to colonel (temporary) August 28, 1942; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) July 15, 1946; to brigadier general (temporary) April 27, 1948; to major general (temporary) July 26, 1948; to colonel (permanent) October 19, 1949; to brigadier general (permanent) October 9, 1951, with date of rank from October 6, 1949.

END

Up to date as of 12 October 1951





